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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

A hot-swap device applicable to the ATA interface comprises at least an integrated drive electronics (IDE) hard disk drive controller for processing IDE instructions transferred from the ATA interface, wherein at least a program code is provided to the IDE hard disk drive controller for the same to execute and respond to the ATA interface with "a virtual storage device" in the case of lacking a real storage device connected to the IDE hard disk drive controller directly or via the ATA interface. In addition, [[or]] if a "real storage device" is connected with the IDE hard disk drive directly or via the ATA interface, the ATA interface will receive response from the "real storage device".